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THE OCCASIONAL WRITER, &c.

DEAR SIR,

I Met with yours at a Bookseller's in print instead of receiving it at my Lodgings. When I wrote my Epistle I intended to be paid for it, but not in the Coin you sent me; I should have been much better pleased with a few lines directed to Mr. *Maddox*, importing *Pray pay*, &c. But I believe as you have read the Ancients you strive to imitate

An-

Auguſtus Cæſar, who uſed to reward bad Panegyricks by endorſing them with worſe. Your beginning is indeed very courteous: — ‘ *Dear Sir*, ‘ I cannot make you too early, ‘ nor ample acknowledgments, for ‘ the unlimited tender you are ſo kind ‘ to make me of your ſervice, as a ‘ writer: And though you ſcrupled ‘ ſigning your name, yet the maſter-‘ like ſtrokes, with which you have ‘ delineated your picture, hindered ‘ me from being one moment at a ‘ loſs to gueſs whoſe it was. The in-‘ genious confeſſion you make of be-‘ ing never actuated by any princi-‘ ples that ſway the honeſt part of ‘ mankind; your having no regard ‘ to publick or private faith; your ‘ ſetting at nought fidelity to parti-‘ culars; allegiance to Princes; love ‘ to your Country; together with all

‘ obli-

'word; since it fully prevents the 'most detracting disposition from 'asserting with the least colour of 'truth, that you have missed of that 'aim: And if the method you pur-'sued to establish it, had fully suc-'ceeded, according to your laudable 'and salutary schemes for this na-'tion; History could not have fur-'nished two heroes, worthy of ma-'king up a Triumvirate with you, 'if the names of *Herostratus* and *Nero* 'had been lost.

YOU cannot deny but I have suc-ceeded in this since my Name is up, and so I may lie abed and sweat, and yet have all the Mischief laid at my Door.

'BUT I cannot help remarking the 'too unfortunate extreams, to which 'this

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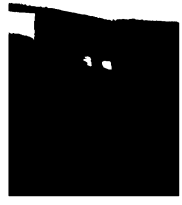

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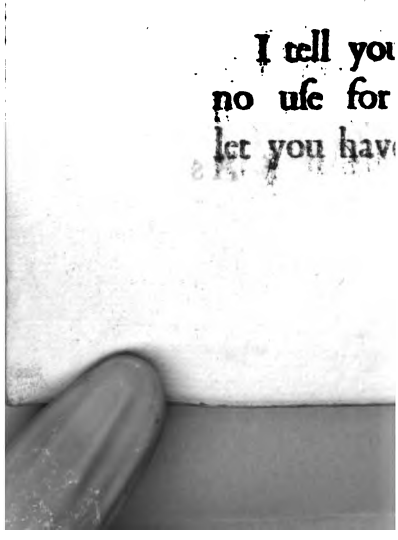

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fore left it in your hands; but as you seem to think it troublesome, I'll e'en take it back again, presuming it is not the worse for wearing.

'UPON the whole, Sir, I cannot 'but bemoan our mutual loss, that 'where there is so good a disposition 'to do me service, there should be so 'little ability. What would the 'World say of my Cause, if I 'should take a slip that would be-'tray my thinking it so desperate, 'as the calling in emancipated 'Slaves, proscribed Criminals, or 'insolvent Debtors, to support it? 'These Methods you know, Sir, 'are accounted as evident Marks of 'despair in Politicians, as the pre-'scribing *Kensington* Gravel-Pits, or 'Pigeons to the Patient's Feet, are

'of

of despondency in Physicians: And was I so near sinking as to catch at such Reeds to support me, yet I fear I should find the Qualifications you boast of to recommend you, as little useful to a Minister, as you found them in one.

I fear by this particular that you mistake your Man, for I find my self but once mentioned in it, which is under the name of an *Insolvent Debtor*; for I am neither a Gravel-Pit nor a Pigeon. Nor did I ever take them for Reeds to support drowning Men; nor did I ever offer my self to serve a *Minister* in any capacity, being fit for no employment about him, not even that of a Sexton.

WHEN

THAT fame *Menas* you ſp
I fancy muſt have been
Chambre to *Pompey*, as I gather
the Name of *Freed-Man*, *i. e.*
taken out of livery; and if, Sir,
mean to recommend me to a G
man's ſervice I ſhould be much
liged to you, and think it a ſuffi
payment for my Panegyrick; f
can aſſure you I can change S
as nimbly as ever that ſame G
tleman could for his life. But
for *Laws of War* and benefits
cruing from *my Treachery*, I could
yet do any thing more than ſteali
ſomething out of my Maſte
Pocket. I am extremely flatter'd
think that the Nation honours m
ſo much as to have ſo inconſiderabl
a Man in their thoughts; yet my
Vanity flatters me ſo ſtrongly that I
am apt to believe you when you ſay,

NOR

Nor do I ſpeak my ſe
timents upon this occaſio
thoſe of the whole nation:
lieve me, dear Sir, (as har
as it is) you have united t
tions of mankind with reg
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ich the better ſort of the
for you, is as ſtrong
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'helm, and by a shameful scramble 'save his own wretched Life, and 'swim to shore?

You seem here by the mention of that Man with an hard name to accuse me with getting drunk sometimes: Really, Sir, I acknowledge it to be my misfortune, but as I never intend to go beyond Sea again, it won't be in my power to knock a Ship o'th' head: Besides I hate Water like a Cat. So, Sir, I beg you will not think of recommending me to a Sea Captain, for my Stomach turns at the very thoughts of the gears and biles-water, though if I was there in a Wreck I'd scramble for my life as well as the best of them, and like the *South-Sea* Chaps cry, the Devil take the hindmost.

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‘ observed in my character; there is
‘ one which I'll venture to assure
‘ you, you will never discover, which
‘ is my ever being alarmed at an op-
‘ position from one in the impo-
‘ tence of disgrace, who could never
‘ terrify me in the Zenith of his pros-
‘ perity.

DEAR SIR, I vow to gad I am extreamly your humble Servant for the obliging terms in which you here treat my poor services; which flows from your natural Benevolence not from my mean Abilities; its your Goodness more than my Deserts. But I should be obliged to you if you would give me fewer Words and more Money, for I am past the Age of loving Sugar-Plumbs. I wonder, Sir, you would call me *Tell-tale*, since it is extremely prejudicing

dicing my Reputation, an
incapacitating me from
ployment you ſeem to inter
being *Valet de Chambre*, wh
xcellence muſt be hold
ongue, ſince he is repo
Maſter's dirty Secrets. A
of this Paragraph it is all
to me, and I know
than the Man in the
roceed to ſay,

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'gentlemen is a very plain and short
'one, 'tis not the Emperor, nor
'*France*, nor *Spain*, nor this, nor
't'other Potentate, to whom we
'must keep up a perpetual oppoſi-
'tion, grant a conſtant aſſiſtance:
'Power will always be fluctuating
'amongſt the Princes of *Europe*, and
'where-ever the preſent flow of it
'appears, (eſpecially in open and di-
'direct Violations of our juſt rights)
'there is our enemy, there the pro-
'per object of our fears. And I can
'never think our having once lent a
'hand to raiſe the Emperor, is any
'argument why we ſhould ſuffer him
'afterwards to climb what heights he
'pleaſes, at the expence and upon
'the ruins of this nation: The ſame
'Policy that ſuggeſted the one, ju-
'ſtifies our putting a ſtop to the o-
'ther; and I hope as he found our

'aſſiſt-

different our ſelves, leave to chance and the care of other powers ſuch inestimable bleſſings, upon the preſervation or loſs of which, the riches, ſtrength and ſecurity of this nation ſo immediately and eſſentially depend. But as ſelf-love naturally diſpoſes men to like thoſe beſt, next to themſelves, who reſemble them moſt, I do not wonder at your having for the Emperor, whom you formerly ſo much abhorred, ſo great a concern and friendſhip, ſince he has acted ſo ungrateful a part towards this nation; and, by the ſame rule of good Principle and Honeſty, at your appearing now ſo inveterate againſt *France*, which ſo kindly received and entertained you when your guilt made you fly your own country.

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'I know how natural it will be for 'a gentleman of your reſtleſs ſpirit, 'upon this repulſe to turn the point 'of your zeal (*in utrumque paratus*) 'againſt the breaſt of him, in whoſe 'defence you offer'd to draw it: But 'I ſhall have many fewer apprehen-'ſions in making you my enemy, 'than I ſhould have had in receiving 'you as a friend; becauſe 'tis well 'known you are as harmleſs in one 'capacity as you are dangerous in 'the other.

'I muſt inform you too, that 'if you deſign to be very ſcurrilous 'and abuſive in your invectives, 'your changing your name in 'libels, as often as you have done 'your party in politicks, will not 'prevent your being diſcovered. 'When *Proteus* try'd ſucceſſively the

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soon, Scribbler, Poet, fathering other Men's Writings or Children, and, in fine, fit for any thing except Fighting and Fidelity. I am,

SIR,

Your most Obedient.

From my Habitation up four pair of Stairs at the Two fighting Cocks in *Grub-Street.*

FINIS.

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